

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /095 W
-----131027Z 042808 /14

R 110820Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1549
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4801

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, US
SUBJECT: ISLAMABAD DIPLOMATIC REACTION TO THE BHUTTO ANTI-AMERICAN
ALLEGATIONS

1. SINCE PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO LAUNCHED HIS ANTI-AMERICAN
ATTACK ON APRIL 28, THAT TOPIC HAS BEEN UPPERMOST IN DISCUSSIONS
IN ISLAMABAD'S DIPLOMATIC COLONY AND HAS DOUBTLESS BEEN A
SUBJECT OF TELEGRAPHIC REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT ON THE PART
OF THE FIFTY OR SO EMBASSIES HERE. ON THE BASIS OF CONVER-
SATIONS WE HAVE HAD HERE WITH A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF
DIPLOMATS BOTH ABOUT THEIR OWN ATTITUDES AND WHAT THEY
UNDERSTAND THE ATTITUDES OF OTHER DIPLOMATS TO BE, WE
COME TO A NUMBER OF CONCLUSIONS.

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2. THE WESTERN EUROPEAN GROUP HAS BY AND LARGE DISMISSED
BHUTTO'S ALLEGATIONS AS STEMMING FROM HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL
REQUIREMENTS, AND ACCEPT OUR POSITION THAT THE CHARGES ARE
BASELESS. THE DUTCH AND FRG AMBASSADORS HAVE GONE OUT OF
THEIR WAY TO ASSURE US THEIR SUPPORT AND WE UNDERSTAND
THEY ARE VIGOROUSLY ARGUING OUR CASE WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES.

THE ONE EXCEPTION TO THE SUPPORT WE ARE RECEIVING FROM THE WESTERN EUROPEANS IS THE FRENCH EMBASSY. ITS POSITION IS AT BEST AMBIGUOUS, AND SEVERAL OF ITS OFFICERS ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT THERE COULD BE AT LEAST SOME TRUTH IN BHUTTO'S ALLEGATIONS. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS PROFESSED NOT TO BELIEVE THE CHARGES AND HAS POINTED TO THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE.

3. THIS SUSPICION THAT THERE MIGHT BE AT LEAST SOME TRUTH IN BHUTTO'S CHARGES ALSO AFFECTED OTHER EMBASSIES. OUR UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE EMBASSIES OF EAST ASIAN AND SMALLER SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES HERE GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THE PM'S ALLEGATIONS OF MASSIVE US INVOLVEMENT IN THE PAKISTAN POLITICAL PROCESS WAS HIGHLY EXAGGERATED AND OVERSTATED, BUT "WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S AT LEAST SOME FIRE." AS TIME PASSED AND THE GOP FAILED TO DISCLOSE ANY CONCRETE EVIDENCE FOR ITS CHARGES, THESE ATTITUDES CHANGED. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, REPORTING THIS ON A CALL HE INITIATED ON THE CHARGE YESTERDAY, TOLD HIM THAT THE ASIAN AMBASSADORS HAD MET AND HAD DECIDED THAT BHUTTO'S ALLEGATIONS WERE BASELESS.

4. BHUTTO'S FAILURE TO COME UP WITH EVIDENCE IS PROVING EMBARRASSING FOR HIM IN OTHER QUARTERS. THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD THE CHARGE LAST NIGHT THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO ASK THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ABOUT THE BASIS FOR BHUTTO'S CHARGES. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HE HAD SEEN TWO LAHORE URDU MAGAZINES WHICH HAD ASKED WHY BHUTTO HAD NOT PRODUCED EVIDENCE AGAINST THE AMERICANS. THE IRANIANS, LIKE THE TURKS, HAVE NOT ACCEPTED THE ALLEGATIONS AND
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THEY HAVE QUERIED US CAREFULLY ABOUT OUR ASSESSMENT OF BHUTTO'S MOTIVATION IN MAKING THEM.

5. WE DO NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT ARAB ATTITUDES HERE. WE SUSPECT THAT LIKE THE ASIANS THE ARABS BELIEVED THAT BHUTTO'S CHARGES HAD AT LEAST SOME BASIS BUT ARE PROBABLY NOW HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS. THE INDIANS HAVE FROM THE START DISMISSED THE CHARGES AS THE PUREST POPPYCOCK AND HAVE WELCOMED US TO THE CLUB OF THOSE WHO BHUTTO FINDS IT TO HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL ADVANTAGE TO ACCUSE OF INTRIGUING AGAINST HIM.

6. THE EASTERN EUROPEAN BLOC HAS BEEN GLEEFUL AT THIS PAK-US CONFRONTATION AND HAS MADE NO SECRET OF ITS PLEASURE. THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE FULLY ACCEPTED BHUTTO'S CHARGES AND , AS HE PUT IT, IF IT CAME TO A QUESTION OF ACCEPTING THE PAKISTAN VERSION OR THE US VERSION, HE WOULD ALWAYS CHOOSE THE PAK.

7. THE CHINESE ARE BEING INSCRUTABLE ABOUT THEIR REACTION TO THE CHARGES. WE UNDERSTAND THEY QUESTIONED THE JAPANESE ABOUT THEIR ASSESSMENT, AND WERE TOLD THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO THE ALLEGATIONS. THE CHINESE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN OUTSPOKENLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SOVIETS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION. THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO SEEK OUT AN EMBASSY OFFICER SOON AFTER BHUTTO'S SPEECH TO URGE THAT THE US TAKE CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE AND TRY TO PREVENT THE SOVS FROM "FISHING IN TROUBLED WATERS."
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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